AFB Referred Culture (Mycobacteria for ID)

Test description	Identification of mycobacteria to the complex, group, or species.
Test use	To identify mycobacteria isolated in culture.
Test Department	Mycobacteriology Laboratory Phone: (860) 920-6649, FAX (860) 920-6721
Methodology	Identification methods: DNA probe, High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), biochemical testing and growth characteristics.
Availability	Isolate identification available 1-7 days from confirmation of acid fast bacilli in culture.
Specimen Requirements	Acid fast organism on any solid or in liquid media commonly used for the isolation of mycobacteria species, such as Lowenstein-Jensen (LJ), Middlebrook, and media from automated test systems.
Collection Kit/Container	Follow all applicable federal regulations for packaging of infectious substances.
Collection Instructions	Submit culture in standard agar or broth media
Specimen Handling & Transport	Transport to the laboratory at ambient temperature. Avoid temperature extremes. Cultures suspected of containing *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* should be packaged and shipped in accordance with "Category A Infectious Substances" guidelines.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimens Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Cultures overgrown with or contaminated by non-acid fast bacteria
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select **AFB Referred Culture**)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or site of collection, date collected, and test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	• Non-acid fast organisms present in the culture may interfere with identification of mycobacteria. • DNA probe identification test does not differentiate between members of the tuberculosis complex (*M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis*, *M. bovis* BCG, *M. africanum*, *M*. *microti* and *M. canetti*). • A small number of biochemically determined *M. avium* complex isolates may not be detected by the DNA probe identification test.
Additional	In some cases, isolates will only be identified to the species level or to the "species-complex group" (such as *M. avium* complex, *Simian-Avium* (SAV)

comments	group, or *M. tuberculosis* complex). Isolates can be submitted to collaborating laboratories for additional testing, if required. Consult with the Mycobacteriology laboratory.

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